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In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1- 2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended) A folding tailgate extension comprising a plurality of

5 rectangular panels, wherein the longitudinal edges of said panels are hingedly
attached to each other in series and said panels comprise locking means;

wherein said locking means comprise a receiver and a pin assembly, such that:

10 said receiver further comprises a block fixedly attached to the transverse
edge of a first of said panels, said block having holes located in adjacent
sides, at least one of said holes being aligned with the transverse edge of
said panel, and at least one of said holes being orthogonal to the transverse
edge of said panel;

15 said pin assembly further comprises a block fixedly attached to the
transverse edge of a second of said panels, said block having holes located
in opposite sides, said holes being aligned with the transverse edge of said
panel, and a pin extending through said holes, slideably attached by a
spring inside of said block;

20 said pin is able to engage said transverse holes in said receiver so that said
first and second panels form a plane; and,

said pin is alternatively able to engage said orthogonal holes in said
receiver so that said first and second panels form a right angle.

4. (original) The folding tailgate extension of claim 3, wherein said panels are plastic.

5. (original) The folding tailgate extension of claim 3, wherein said panels are metal.

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6. (original) The folding tailgate extension of claim 3, wherein said panels are wooden.

7- 20. (canceled)